

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-12 JUSE-00 NSAE-00

RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-07 TRSE-00 USIA-12 SCI-06 OMB-01

RSR-01 DODE-00 INRE-00 /067 W
----- 037653

P R 110953 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO BNDD HQS WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2265

THE WHITE HOUSE WASHDC

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 5708

EO 11652 : GDS-1979

TAGS: SNAR (TH, LA)

SUBJ: TASK FORCE REPORTS, WEEK ENDING APRIL 4, 1973

HQS PASS BELK/ IA, DURKIN/ ENCC FROM DOYLE

WHITE HOUSE PASS L. GLADDEN FROM DOYLE/ BNDD

1. TASK FORCE 23 (SNO)

A) PERSONNEL: NO CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS REPORTS.

B) EQUIPMENT: COSNO REPORTS THAT SNO PERSONNEL ARE
STILL IN THE PROCESS OF GATHERING COST ESTIMATES FOR THE
" RAID KITS" AND PORTABLE LIGHTING SYSTEMS REPORTED PREVIOUSLY.

C) OFFICE SPACE: ADEQUATE OFFICE SPACE PRESENTLY EXISTS
AT EACH SNO GARRISON.

D) OPERATIONS: ON APRIL 2, 1973, AT 10:00 A. M. COSNO
ACCOMPANIED BY CMDO, SNO AND BPP PERSONNEL, ACTING UPON
INFORMATION FURNISHED BY A SNO CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANT , RAIDED
THE VILLAGE OF BAN NA KLANG, AMPHOE MAE PANG, CHANGWAT CHIANG
MAI, UTILIZING TWO ROYAL THAI POLICE HELICOPTERS. INTELLIGENCE
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PROVIDED BY SNO'S CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANT INDICATED THAT THE VILLAGE WAS A STORAGE AREA FOR MORPHINE, OPIUM AND THAT AN OPIUM REFINERY WAS ALSO LOCATED NEAR THE VILLAGE. AFTER ATTEMPTING TO LOCATE THE REFINERY FROM THE AIR WITH NEGATIVE RESULTS, THE RAIDING PARTY LANDED AT THE VILLAGE. A SUBSEQUENT SEARCH OF THE VILLAGE REVEALED ABOUT 9.5 KILOGRAMS OF SUSPECTED RAW OPIUM AND ABOUT 10 KILOGRAMS OF AN UNKNOWN SUBSTANCE BELIEVED TO BE USED IN THE PRODUCTION OF PREPARED OPIUM. A CHEMICAL ANALYSIS WILL BE MADE ON THE UNKNOWN SUBSTANCE, THE DETAILS OF WHICH WILL BE REPORTED AT A LATER DATE. THE SEARCH ALSO REVEALED ABOUT 10,000 "RABBIT" BRAND LABELS WHICH ARE IDENTICAL TO LABELS FOUND ON PREVIOUS SEIZURES. THE OWNERS OF THE TARGETED RESIDENCES IDENTIFIED AS LAO YAU AND AI LA, BOTH CHINESE HAW, WERE NOT IN THE VILLAGE AT THE TIME OF THE RAID AND HAVE BEEN DECLARED FUGITIVES BY SNO. DURING THE SEARCH OF THE VILLAGE, COSNO AND CMDO PERSONNEL CULTIVATED A LOCAL INHABITANT OF THE VILLAGE INTO BECOMING A CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANT. THE INHABITANT ADVISED COSNO AND CMDO PERSONNEL THAT A LARGE OPIUM REFINERY WAS LOCATED APPROXIMATELY FOUR KILOMETERS FROM THE VILLAGE IN AN AREA NOT ACCESSIBLE TO AIRCRAFT AND FURTHER STATED HE WOULD GUIDE A RAIDING PARTY

TO THE SCENE. A RAIDING PARTY WAS THEN LED TO THE REFINERY BY THE CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANT. THE TRIP TAKING TWO HOURS THROUGH DENSE JUNGLE, SO DENSE THAT AT TIMES THE RAIDING PARTY WAS FORCED TO CRAWL ON THEIR HANDS AND KNEES. SUBSEQUENT TO THE RAIDING PARTIES ARRIVAL AT THE REFINERY WHICH WAS SITUATED IN A DEEP RAVINE AND CAMOUFLAGED BY SURROUNDING FOILAGE, IT WAS DISCOVERED THAT THERE WERE NO OCCUPANTS AND THAT THE REFINERY WAS NOT IN OPERATION. THE RAIDING PARTY AFTER A CUSORY SEARCH RETURNED TO THE VILLAGE AND PLANS ARE NOW BEING FORMULATED FOR FUTURE TACTICAL OPERATIONS, REGARDING THE SITE, ALONG WITH OTHER SITES PURPORTED BY THE C. I. TO BE IN THE IMMEDIATE AREA.

INVESTIGATIONS ON TARGETED VIOLATORS ARE CONTINUING AT EACH SNO GARRISON AND VEHICLE CHECKS CONTINUE TO AVERAGE AROUND 150 PER WEEK.

E) SPECIAL COMMENT: ON APRIL 1, 1973, AT SNO HEADQUARTERS IN CHIANG MAI, COSNO HOSTED A PARTY CELEBRATING SNO'S FIRST ANNIVERSARY. THE EVENT WAS ATTENDED BY SEVERAL CONFIDENTIAL

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SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVES OF THE OFFICIAL AMERICAN COMMUNITY

AND WELL OVER ONE HUNDRED THAI NATIONALS REPRESENTING VARIOUS CONCERNED CIVIC AND GOVERNMENT AGENCIES. BASED ON SNO' S PERFORMANCE SINCE ITS INCEPTION ACCOLADE' S WERE IN ORDER AND SEVERAL WERE RECOGNIZED DURING THE EVENING' S ACTIVITY.

2. TASK FORCE 27 (GSI)

A) PERSONNEL: NO CHANGE AT THIS TIME.

B) EQUIPMENT: NO CHANGE AT THIS TIME.

C) OFFICE SPACE: NO CHANGE AT THIS TIME.

D) OPERATIONS:

(A) BAN HOUET SAI: GSI ACTIVITY DURING THIS PERIOD CONSISTED OF SURVEILLANCE OF RESIDENT TRAFFICKERS AND AIRPORT. NO SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITY REPORTED IN THAT AREA DURING THIS PERIOD.

(B) SAYABOURY: UPON RECEIPT OF INFORMATION CONCERNING LARGE QUANTITIES OF OPIUM AT BAN LA, 12 KILOMETERS FROM SAYABOURY, GSI OFFICERS PROCEEDED TO THE ABOVE LOCATION AND SEARCHED SEVERAL HUTS AND VEHICLES WITH NEGATIVE RESULTS. DURING THE PERIOD OF APRIL 4, 1973 THROUGH APRIL 6, 1973, LTC SOUNTHONE AND S/ A VOPAT INSPECTED THE SAYABOURY DISTRICT OFFICE. THE DEPUTY DISTRICT CHIEF OF GSI AND ANOTHER OFFICER HAVE BEEN REPLACED DUE TO LACK OF INITIATIVE. NEW DEPUTY CHIEF OF SAYABOURY DISTRICT OFFICE IS LT. PHONESAVATH BOUPHA. NO OTHER SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITY REPORTED DURING THE ABOVE PERIOD.

(C) LUANG PRABANG: GSI DISTRICT CHIEF REPORTS THAT DURING THIS PERIOD, HE HAS DIVIDED HIS OFFICE INTO TWO SECTIONS; ONE SECTION FOR AIRPORT AND AIRCRAFT SURVEILLANCE AND THE OTHER SECTION FOR MEKONG RIVER BOAT TRAFFIC SURVEILLANCE DURING WHICH TIME THEY SEARCHED THREE BOATS WITH NEGATIVE RESULTS. NO OTHER SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITY REPORTED DURING THIS PERIOD.

(D) PAKSE: GSI ACTIVITY DURING THIS PERIOD CONSISTED MAINLY OF SURVEILLANCE OF RESIDENT TRAFFICKERS AND THE PAKSE
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MILITARY AIRPORT. NO SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITY REPORTED DURING THIS PERIOD.

(E) VIENTIANE: GSI OFFICERS SEARCHED THREE MILITARY AIRCRAFTS (2 RLAF, 1 CAMBODIAN) WITH NEGATIVE RESULTS.

SURVILLANCE OF ARA TRAFFICKERS IN AN ATTEMPT TO GAIN
INTELLIGENCE LEADING TO SEIZURES OF NARCOTICS CONTINUES.

ON APRIL 5, 1973, THE VDO RECEIVED THE VISIT OF GAO
OFFICERS ROBERT C. TAYLER AND DONALD C. PATTON WHO WERE
BRIEFED ON THE GSI PORTION OF THE NARCOTIC CONTROL
PROGRAM FOR LAOS. THE ABOVE OFFICERS WILL RETURN TO THE
VDO ON OR ABOUT APRIL 11, 1973, FOR ADDITIONAL BRIEFING.
UNGER

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 APR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BANGKO05708
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: RR
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730439/aaaaictz.tel
Line Count: 182
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 NOV 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28-Nov-2001 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <20-Dec-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 971218
Subject: TASK FORCE REPORTS, WEEK ENDING APRIL 4, 1973 HQS PASS BELK/ IA, DURKIN/ ENCC FROM DOYLE WHITE HOUSE PASS
L. GLADDEN FROM DOYLE/ BNDD
TAGS: SNAR, LA, TH
To: BNDD HQS WASHDC
CHIANG MAI
EA
SECSTATE WASHDC
VIENTIANE
WASHDC

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005